

# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
<b>DENGUE FEVER</b>	<b>7</b>	<b><i>DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4, of the genus Flavivirus</i></b>
<b>PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION</b>		
<b>KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read about Dengue Fever in the CD Manual.</li> <li>• See the case definition for Dengue Fever in the CD Manual.</li> <li>• Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19<sup>th</sup> ed., pp 164 - 171.</li> <li>• Print and review reporting forms:                                <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i>  <i>Part 2: Dengue Fever (DHHS/EPI #7)</i> </li> </ul>	
<b>CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION</b>		
<b>COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, other lab report(s), and discharge summary).</li> <li>• Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.</li> <li>• Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. Travel to an area where dengue is currently occurring is an important factor.</li> </ul>	
<b>REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. If convalescent serum is drawn it should be done 6 days or more after onset of illness, but not after 6 weeks.</li> <li>• Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied.</li> <li>• Further testing by public health professionals would be indicated in high profile cases to confirm the diagnosis, or to investigate a cluster of dengue-like illnesses.</li> </ul>	
<b>APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.</li> </ul>	

<b>IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES</b>	
<b>ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview client to obtain a travel history for the 2 weeks prior to symptom onset. Travel to an area of active dengue fever is a crucial element of exposure.</li> </ul>
<b>IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the CDC website <a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a> to teach at risk people about the disease.</li> <li>Although dengue is not transmitted from person to person, the remote possibility that a mosquito biting an infected person during the viremic state could become infected and transmit dengue to other individuals exists.</li> <li>Persons during acute disease should be protected from mosquito bites.</li> </ul>
<b>REPORTING INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.</li> <li>Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.</li> <li>Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.</li> </ul>
<b>CASE FINDING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of the disease in other exposed individuals with similar travel history.</li> <li>Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.</li> <li>If two or more cases are epidemiologically linked, report as an outbreak of Dengue Fever.</li> <li>If indicated, submit outbreak summary report within 30 days from close of outbreak.</li> </ul>
<b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
<b>STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider verifying the laboratory test results by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH for reference testing.</li> </ul>
<b>RISK COMMUNICATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.</li> <li>Consider using risk communication tools conservatively. Travel associated cases are not uncommon.</li> </ul>
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirin is contraindicated due to its hemorrhagic potential.</li> </ul>